

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 11043 210140 Z

63/53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-02 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 NEA-10

IO-12 EA-11 SCI-06 AEC-11 TAR-02 PM-09 DODE-00 ARA-11

RSR-01 /238 W

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R 201646 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9427

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USEC BRUSSELS 7668

UNCLAS PARIS 11043

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 11043 VICE 1043)

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE

1. SUMMARY. FIRST PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S
ENERGY MESSAGE LIMITED FOR MOST PART TO OUTLINING
OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMS SPELLED OUT IN THE MESSAGE.
HEADLINES EMPHASIZE THAT LIBERALIZATION PETROLEUM IMPORTS
DUE TO THE MENACE OF AN ENERGY CRISIS.

CONCERN EXPRESSED THAT OIL PRICE INCREASES CAN BE EXPECTED IN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA
SINGLED OUT AS LIKELY BENEFACTORS OF LIBERALIZATION.
END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 11043 210140 Z

WM LE MONDE EDITORIAL OF APRIL 20 PREDICTS THAT SUPPRESSION OF THE IMPORT QUOTAS WILL PERMIT A RAPID AMELIORATION OF THE U. S. SHORT TERM SUPPLY SITUATION AND PROPOSED LONG TERM MEASURES WILL REINFORCE CONSIDERABLY THE U. S. SECURITY OF SUPPLY. EDITORIAL WARNS HOWEVER, THAT SECURITY OF SUPPLY CANNOT BE TOTAL BECAUSE THE NEW U. S. POLICY IS LATE IN COMING AND MORE IMPORTANTLY BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM.

LE MONDE STATES THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF A COUNTRY, IT MUST CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE POLICIES FOLLOWED BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT IS WHY PRESIDENT NIXON REFERS IN MESSAGE TO COOPERATION WITH THE O. E. C. D. COUNTRIES AND ALSO EXPLAINS WHY THE U. S. INTENDS TO PLAY, MORE THAN EVER, THE MAJOR ROLE IN THE MID- EAST.

LE MONDE ASSUMES THAT THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES WILL REJOICE AT NEW INITIATIVES MAKING THE U. S. A MAJOR IMPORTER AS THOSE NATIONS FRIENDLY TO THE U. S., SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WILL SEE THEIR REVENUES CONSIDERABLY INCREASED. LE MONDE CLOSES WITH THE MESSAGE THAT IT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE URGENT FOR THE EUROPEANS TO DEVELOP AN ENERGY POLICY OR ELSE THEY " MUST CONTENT THEMSELVES, ONCE MORE, TO SUBMIT..."

3. COMBAT EDITORIAL OF APRIL 20 STRIKES FAMILIAR THEME THAT UNDER NEW U. S. OIL IMPORT POLICY EUROPEANS WILL BE THE FIRST TO SUFFER BY RISE IN INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM PRICES WHICH WILL MAKE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY LESS COMPETITIVE VIS A VIS THE U. S. COMBAT ALSO PREDICTS ARAB SATISFACTION WITH LIBERALIZED U. S. OIL IMPORTS. COMBAT COMMENTS THAT IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT THE EC IS HURRYING TO DEVELOP AN ENERGY POLICY WHICH CALLS FOR CONCERTATION BETWEEN THE EC, JAPAN AND THE U. S., THE UNIFORMIZATION OF NATIONAL OIL IMPORT REGULATIONS, INCREASED RELIANCE ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND MAINTAINANCE OF EUROPEAN COAL PRODUCTION.
IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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LONDON
ROME
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